

just spoken about. That amount of money does not go far enough to help those families struggling to send their children to college.

The Democratic substitute, however, offers a better plan for lower and middle income families. In HOPE credits, they get \$1,100 in tax relief. Estate tax relief is more in keeping with the realities of family-owned businesses. It is phased in at a faster rate and not over a 15-year period. And working families could still take advantage of the \$500 tax credit. You do not deny poor working families that which you allow all other families to have.

In addition, the Democratic substitute sets a cap on capital gains. Most people want capital gains. But again a reasonable and a prudent approach given our budget goal is what is needed. And it does not index capital gains to inflation.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, under close inspection, that the Democratic substitute is far more favorable to low and middle-income working families than the tax bill that will soon be before us that we will vote on tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, working families in America indeed need tax relief. They want it and they should have it. But they need it now and they need a fair one. I submit that the Democratic substitute provides that necessary relief. The tax bill does not.

MFN FOR CHINA, AID TO BOSNIA IN FLOOD RELIEF BILL, AND DISNEY BOYCOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to mention three very important but unrelated topics. One is the vote yesterday to grant most-favored-nation status to China. Last year 141 Members voted against MFN status for China. Yesterday 173 voted against this status. This is an issue that is not going to go away and the opposition will continue to grow if the Chinese do not make major reforms and start doing better in relation to human rights. The Chinese should not take yesterday's vote as some type of endorsement of their very repressive policies. This is particularly true in relation to the horrible persecution of millions of Christians going on in China right now.

Michael Horowitz, a leader in speaking out against this persecution and who happens to be Jewish, said in a recent interview with Chuck Colson the following. He said, "I am speaking out on behalf of persecuted Christians precisely because I am a Jew in the most deeply rooted sense. I see eerie parallels between the way the elites of the world are dealing with Christians—who have become the scapegoats of choice for the thug regimes around the world—and the way the elites dealt with the Jews when Hitler came to power. Another parallel is the tongue-

tied silence of the Christian community in the face of this persecution. A similar silence was evident in the years leading to the Holocaust. Silence, anybody's silence, in the face of persecution is deadly. So for me," Mr. Horowitz said, "sparking our campaign for awareness and action is the most important thing I expect to do. What thugs did to Jews, they are doing now to Christians. I put it to you, Chuck," Mr. Horowitz said, "Christians are becoming the Jews of the 21st century."

Also, the Chinese must start treating us more fairly in regard to trade. We have a trade deficit with China now at 40 to \$50 billion, depending on whose estimate is used. Economists say conservatively that we lose 20,000 jobs per \$1 billion. This means we may be losing as many as 1 million American jobs this year to China and we are losing even more to Japan. We cannot continue these huge trade deficits and resulting huge job losses, Mr. Speaker, for much longer without doing great harm and irreparable harm to this Nation. Already while our unemployment rate is very low, our underemployment rate is terrible. As I have said before, we are ending up with the best educated waiters and waitresses in the world precisely because we are sending so many good jobs to other countries.

Secondly, and briefly, Mr. Speaker, it was unconscionable to require us to vote for \$2 billion more for Bosnia on the so-called flood relief bill. We sent far more to Bosnia than we did to North Dakota. There is no threat to our national security in Bosnia. There is no vital U.S. interest there. We cannot settle these centuries-old ethnic conflicts even if we pour our entire treasury into Bosnia. We need to put our own people first. We do not need our soldiers and sailors doing international social work. We need to bring our troops home now. I was very disappointed that yesterday we voted down the Hilleary amendment to bring our troops home by December 31. The President originally promised we would have our troops out after one year at the most and that was many months ago.

Third, Mr. Speaker, and lastly, the Hill newspaper reported today that no Members were willing to publicly support the Southern Baptists in their boycott of the Disney Company. Well, I know this boycott will not be successful against this extremely rich corporation. However, I for one, and I am a Presbyterian, not a Baptist, admire and respect the Southern Baptists for standing up for their beliefs and for trying to do what they and millions of people believe is morally right. We need much less sex and violence on television and in our movies and the Disney Corporation is not upholding family values as it once did.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we are about to take up a bill called by the Republican the Taxpayer Relief Act. If you look closely at this bill, a better name would be "The Rich get Richer Act."

This is no secret, Mr. Speaker. It's in all the newspapers, it's Republican payback time. It's no secret who the members on the other side of the aisle represent. More than half the benefits of the Republicans tax plan go to people who make an average of \$250,000 a year. The next 25% of their tax breaks go to those making more than \$75,000.

And who gets the crumbs, Mr. Speaker. Who is shortchanging the American working families? As is the usual case when the Republicans talk about relief, they talk about helping their wealthy friends. They are now working to cut taxes on the profits made from the sale of stocks and bonds beyond the amount of taxes paid on wages, they are working to end the corporate alternative minimum tax, they are working to give IRA tax preferences to the top 20% of taxpayers, and they are working hard to cut the taxes on estates that would benefit the top 2% of estates.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are clear for the Republicans. Help the high incomes, help those in the highest tax brackets and the Republican know that they can help themselves. They know that the big corporations will help them if they end the alternative minimum tax so some of our largest corporations can avoid paying any taxes again. We closed this loophole some time ago and now they want to open it up again. It is no secret who is dancing with the Republicans, where their bread is buttered.

This is the party that cuts out working Americans making less than \$15,900, 15 million working, tax paying wage-earners who the Republicans say are getting welfare if they are given the same \$500 per child tax credit that Republicans say their friends making more than \$250,000 should get.

Let's do the Republican math-make less than \$15,900 and you don't need a \$500 per child tax credit-make more than \$250,000 and you do need the same tax credit. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see where the Republicans are coming from.

In my own district, in the 18th Congressional District in Texas, the median household income is about \$22,000 a year. Will the Republican bill help most of them? Will the tax cuts they are proposing help the majority of my constituents? Will the Republican cuts help the majority of American? How much do the Republicans think the American people will stand for?

This is where the American people can see the clear differences between the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democratic plan—the plan authored by the distinguished Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative CHARLES RANGEL—is a plan that gives tax relief where it is need-to working families, hard working taxpaying families.

The Democratic alternative calls for three-quarters of their tax breaks going to people making less than \$58,000 a year. There are tax cuts for small business owners, there are tax credits for the parents of all of our children, there are tax breaks for families that are trying to send their children to college. Sure,